STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR
re: LOCKOUT IN AMCO BATTERIES, BANGALORE

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್ (ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ).—ನಾನು ಅಮ್ಕೋ ಬ್ಯಾಟರಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಅಡಜರ್ನ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋಷನ್ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ನಾನ ಕನ್ಸೆಂಟ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಉತ್ತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್—ನಿಮ್ಮ ರೂಲಿಂಗ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ತಾವು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ರೆಟರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಉಪವಾಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿವಸಗಳಾಯಿತು ಕಾಲ್ ಅಟೆನ್‌ಷನ್ ನೋಟೀಸು ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ದಿವಸವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಗೊತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಲಾಕ್‌ಔಟ್ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಆ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ತಯಾರಿದ್ದರೆ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ವಾಟಾಳ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್.—ಇದು ನನ್ನ ಅಸೆಂಬ್ಲಿ ಕಾನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯುಯನ್ಸಿ ಏರಿಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಾದರೂ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಚ್.ಎಂ.ಟಿ. ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಡೆದ ನಗೋಸಿಯೇಷನ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ವಿಫಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಮಂತ್ರಿಮಂಡಲದ ರಚನೆ ಆದಮೇಲೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಡೆ ಗಲಾಟೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಏನು ಕಾರಣ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಚ್.ಎಂ.ಟಿ. ಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ 4—5 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಅಮ್ಕೋ ಬ್ಯಾಟರಿ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬಹಳ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT (Minister for Labour).—If the Hon'ble Member wants and if I am permitted, I am ready to make a statement. Since the adjournment motion has been converted into a Call-attention motion, I have to make available copies of the statement to the Hon'ble Members who have given notice; I do not have sufficient number of copies at present.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—We would be happy if the statement is made now.

Madam SPEAKER.—The statement will be made tomorrow.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡುವದಕ್ಕೆ ತಯಾರಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಡ್ಜರ್ನ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋಷನ್ ಅನ್ನು ತಳ್ಳಿ ಹಾಕುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ತಮಗೆ ಪವರ್ ಇದೆ. ಇದೇ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಇಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟರೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ತಯಾರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT (Minister for Labour).—The Management of the AMCO Batteries, Bangalore reported on 18th August 1972 that the workers were indulging in go slow tactics and that their production had gone down from an average of 1,145 units per day which the workers were producing for over 12 months, to 540 units per day. As a result the management had to lay off 16 workmen in the oxide mill section from 9th August 1971.

The Management had entered into an agreement on 27th August 1971 with the Simpson and Group Company Workers and Staff Unions, Infantry Road, Bangalore-1, covering demands like wage revision, etc. This settlement had been signed under Section

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12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 47 before the Commissioner of Labour. This settlement is valid up to 31st December 1974. A new set of office bearers are now demanding to re-negotiate the terms of the above settlement. In this back-ground the workers are stated to have resorted to go slow.

The Minister for Labour held a meeting of the workers and management on 17th August 1972 to bring about a settlement and some proposals were made by him to both the parties which included an agreement to abide by the settlement already signed till 1974, to assure production of a minimum of 1,135 batteries per day, an *adhoc* increase of 5 per cent to 10 per cent in the rates of incentives to be paid to the workers by the management as a gesture of good-will, etc. (actually the figures indicated is Rs. 22). The rates of incentives already fixed under the said settlement would stand till 1974.

Another meeting was held on 29th August 1972 with the management and the workers, wherein the workers indicated that the suggestions made by the Minister for Labour were not acceptable to them. In the circumstances a suggestion to constitute a Court of Inquiry under Section 6 of the I.D. Act was made.

Meanwhile some un-happy incidents took place in the factory in which workmen were alleged to have set fire to an Ambassador Car belonging to the Company and are also alleged to have tried to assault the General Manager, AMCO Batteries. In view of this situation the management closed down the factory, *w.e.f.*, 17th October 1972 and in consequence of untoward incident they suspended 37 workers alleged to be involved in acts of violence. Another 40 workers have also been suspended pending Departmental Enquiries.

The management has agreed in the meeting held on 3rd November 1972 to reinstate the 40 workmen who were not involved in violence and against whom there were no police cases.

The management were also agreeable for a Court of Inquiry under the I.D. Act or investigation by a technical expert committee like Ibcon or any other Agency without the interim rise demanded by the workmen. They contend that the entire question including the interim relief and validity of settlement could be referred for enquiry.

The last meeting was held with both the parties on 15th November 1972.

The Government is considering the constitution of a Court of Inquiry, in case it becomes necessary, after the final round of talks are held with the management and the workers' representatives.

The meeting has been fixed to-day at 5.00 P.M. in my chambers.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—I am thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for his statement. I would like to have one clarification. The Hon'ble Minister spoke about the agreement. In view of the fact that the workers and their Union have stated that the agreement which has been entered into at Madras by a different Union goes against the very interests of the workers here, will the Minister use his good offices to see that the justifiable demands of the workers are met ?

†Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—The Hon'ble Member who is himself an able Trade Union Leader, will appreciate that the Management had entered into an agreement on 27th August 1971 with the Simpson and Group Company Workers and Staff Unions, Infantry Road, Bangalore-1 covering demands like wage revision, etc. This settlement had been signed under Section 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 before the Commissioner of Labour, Bangalore.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—The point is that the agreement, referred to just now, that has been entered into by the Madras Group of the Trade Union has been rejected by the Trade Union both at Madras as well as here and they have been demanding that they should not persist either and that on the other hand at least a portion of the incentive must be given. Will the Minister use his good offices to see that some sort of amicable settlement comes about and the hunger strike ends ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—Hunger strike is unwarranted. As I have told you, I have used all my good offices. But I am sorry to say unfortunately that the workers have resorted to this stand. They have approached the Central Union Leaders and of various affiliated Trade Unions. At every meeting, whoever leader has come discussed and conceded. But the workers of Amco Factory have gone back on that decision. The Hon'ble Member is suggesting that I should make my efforts and see that the agreement is cancelled. I want to know under what provisions of law I can do that. I have suggested that I will refer this matter to a Court of enquiry so that a Judge of High Court could go into the matter in detail. The entire grievances of the workers could be heard by him. If necessary I will issue a direction that the report should reach the Government within three months. Now the Management have agreed to our proposal and they have agreed even for the High Court Judge being appointed as a Court of enquiry. In the meanwhile the Management have conceded to withdraw the suspension of 40 workers. The representatives of the workmen came to us and said that they do not mind accepting it provided the suspended workers, numbering 37 who have been involved in violance should be paid 100 per cent salary and D.A. as subsistance allowance. But the standing orders do not provide for this. The

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Management have, however, agreed to pay 50 per cent subsistance allowance. It is not I or you that have entered into an agreement. It is unfortunate that these workers accepted for the higher D.A. Today the incentive is higher than the salary.

I hope the trade union leader would agree with me and try to convince the labour leaders to refer the matter to a court of inquiry. But unfortunately the trend of this labour movement in this country today cannot be described in proper terms. These labour leaders do not want to seek a legal remedy. They feel that if the matter is referred to adjudication, it takes a lot of time to get the relief. They therefore want to short-cut all the procedures. I request the Hon'ble Member Sri Krishnan and others to come to my rescue and help the Labour Department in solving this problem. Please advise the labour properly and I am always prepared to help the labourers provided their demand is just, reasonable and according to rules and regulations.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ವರ್ಕರ್ಸ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಿಂದೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು. ಮದ್ರಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆದು ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ಸರಕಾರ ಆ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಸ್ಕ್ರ್ಯಾಪ್ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಮದ್ರಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಸರಕಾರ ಒಪ್ಪಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಹೇಳಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂದು 36 ಜನರ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಸು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಆಲೋಯನ್ಸ್ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು, ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹಚ್ಚುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇದನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವಿರಾ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I have already made my stand very clear on this matter. I am required to act within the four corners of law. The agreement to which the Hon'ble Member Sri Byregowda referred to—Madras agreement, stands cancelled. But the present agreement has been signed before the Labour Commissioner and the period of this agreement ends in 1974. I can only use my good office by referring this matter to an adjudication. I do not know how far the workmen are justified in demanding for the cancellation of the agreement. The workmen are not prepared to accept the adjudication. They are not even prepared for an arbitration.

I am very sorry to say that some of the workmen are involved in violence. The Police have sent F.I.R. against some of the workers who indulged in violent activities. An Ambassador car of an officer was burnt and the General Manager was assaulted. The Police have registered a case against that particular worker. Please tell me how to help those workers against whom criminal cases have been launched. How can I insist upon the management to take-back such workers for duty? The management has agreed to pay the subsistence allowance though it is not covered under the rules. The workers are not satisfied with this allowance, they are insisting upon payment of full salary and D.A. I request the Hon'ble Members

to advise the workers suitably and guide them on right lines so that an early settlement could be reached, otherwise I would refer the matter for adjudication.

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್.—ತಮ್ಮ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಈಗ 35 ಜನರಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಸು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವರು ಊರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಿರುವಾಗ ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ದೂರವಾಗಿ ಕೇಸು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಆ 35 ಜನರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಾಕಿರುವ ಕೇಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಾಯಮಾಡದೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಳ ಕೊಡುವ ಏರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಅಜೀಜ್ ಸೇಠ್.—ಇದರ ವಿಚಾರ ನನಗೂ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ಅವರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಮೇಲೆ 54 ಕ್ರಿಮಿನಲ್ ಕೇಸುಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಕೇಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿದಮೇಲೆ ಏನೂ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವು ತೀರ್ಮಾನವಾಗಬೇಕು. Now it is for the labour leaders to come to the rescue of the workmen and advise them to desist from violence. After all by such strikes the production of the nation would suffer. You will be surprised to know that our labbour in the whole of South India gets Rs. 500 per month by way of salary and other incentives.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕಾಗೋಡು ತಿಮ್ಮಪ್ಪ.—ನಾನೊಂದು ಗಮನಸೆಳೆಯುವ ಸೂಚನೆ ಕಳಿಸಿದ್ದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಅದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ತಾನೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ, ನಾನು ವಿಚಾರಮಾಡಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

SCARCITY CONDITIONS AND FEE EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENTS IN BIJAPUR AND SOME OTHER DISTRICTS.

ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ. ಎಲ್. ಕಬಾಡಿ (ಬಳ್ಳಿಗಿ).—ಬಿಜಾಪುರವಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬಹಳ ಕೆಟ್ಟಿದೆ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ 29 ರಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಂತಿ ಕಳಿಸಿದ್ದೆವು. ಆದರೂ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಹುಡುಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದೆ ಗೂಂಡಾಗಳು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ದುರುಪಯೋಗಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಈಗಿಂದೀಗಲೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಇರುಗೆ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿಯನ್ನು ಹೋಗಲಾಡಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ವಿನಂತಿಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ, ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಬಿಜಾಪುರ ಮುಂತಾದ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಇವೇ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಿದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆಯುವ ಸೂಚನೆ ಕಳಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ತಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಬಂದಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಹತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

2-30 P.M.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಬೈ. ಪಾಟೀಲ್.—ಈಗ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅನೇಕ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಗಲಾಟೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅದೇ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಲ್ಬುರ್ಗಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಗಲಾಟೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡುವುದು ಬೇಡ ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವಿನಂತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ....

ನಾನು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ, ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಕೂಡ ಬಹಳ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಇನ್ನೂ ಈಗ ತಾನೆ ಆ ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ನಾನು ತಕ್ಷಣ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇನೆ....